GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1722
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
RESUMPTION OF INDO-PAK TALKS
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;JASWANT SINGH YADAV;RAMSHETH THAKUR;SURESH KURUP

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has urged India for the resumption of bilateral dialogue at New York;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a)-(c) Pakistani leaders frequently make propagandist calls for the resumption of dialogue with India, especially while addressing international audiences. These calls are aimed at deflecting international attention from Pakistan`s continued sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India, and the growing international concern at the impact this policy is having on regional and international security. This strategy has clearly failed. There is widespread condemnation of state sponsorship of terrorism, and a clear recognition that there is no justification for terrorism which must be eradicated wherever it exists.

India is firmly resolved to resist terrorism until it is decisively crushed.

India has always endeavored to establish good neighbourly ties with Pakistan. In pursuance of this objective we have always been the initiators of dialogue. In recent years our initiatives have included the establishment of the Composite Dialogue that seeks to build trust and confidence, establish mutually beneficial cooperation and address outstanding issues. Prime Minister also took the initiative, in May 2001, of inviting President Musharraf for summit level talks at Agra. Pakistan must end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism so that a conducive environment is created for productive dialogue.